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JUL 27 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re United States Patent Application of:)	Docket No.:	4258-112
)		
Applicants:)	Conf. No.:	5253
MATO DE LA PAZ, Jose)		
Maria, et al.)		
)		
Application No.:)	Art Unit:	1614
10/540,212)		
)		
Date Filed:)	Examiner:	Changhwa J. Chen
January 12, 2006)		
)		
Title:)	Customer No.:	
METHOD OF DIAGNOSING)		
NON-ALCOHOLIC)		
STEATOHEPATITIS (NASH))		
USING MOLECULAR)		
MARKERS)		

23448

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION CERTIFICATEATTN: Examiner Changhwa J. Chen

Fax No. (571) 273-8300

I hereby certify that this document, along with any enclosures identified herein, is being filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, via facsimile transmission to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date specified below, to United States Patent and Trademark Office facsimile transmission number (571) 273-8300.

Number of Pages (including cover)

Kate Pope

July 27, 2006

Date

RESPONSE TO JULY 17, 2006 NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT ISSUED IN U.S.
PATENT APPLICATION NO. 10/540,212

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

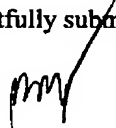
4258-112

Sir:

In reply to the July 17, 2006 Non-Compliant Amendment issued in the above-identified U.S. patent application, enclosed herewith is a revised copy of the Response to June 12, 2006 Office Action, filed on July 11, 2006 in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The subject Response has been amended to place the listing of the claims on a separate page. No new matter has been added.

If any issues remain outstanding incident to the acceptance of the enclosed Response, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (919) 419-9350 to discuss same.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven J. Hultquist
Reg. No. 28,021
Attorney for Applicants

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY/
TECHNOLOGY LAW
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Attorney File No.: 4258-112

Enclosures:
Response to June 12, 2006 Office Action [8 pgs.]

<p>The USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment of fees properly payable for this document to Deposit Account No. 083284</p>

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RESPONSE TO JUNE 12, 2006 OFFICE ACTION IN U.S. PATENT APPLICATION
NO. 10/540,212

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This responds to the June 12, 2006 Office Action in the above-identified application.

Please amend the claims as set out in Section I (Amendments to the Claims), beginning on page 3 hereof.

Remarks concerning amendments made to the claims, and the substance of the June 12, 2006 Office Action, are set out in Section II (Remarks), beginning on page 5 hereof.